

Appl. No. 10/581,121
Reply to Office Action of June 12, 2008
Amendment dated September 2, 2008

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A fan comprising: according to claim 1,

wherein

a centrifugal fan including an impeller and a scroll casing that houses the impeller, the scroll casing having a scroll intake port; and

a unit casing having an unit intake port that opens in a direction crossing an opening direction of the scroll intake port, the unit casing being configured to house the centrifugal fan,

the scroll casing having a bulged portion at a circumferential portion of the scroll intake port, the bulged portion having an inner surface that is formed evenly in a circumferential direction and an outer surface portion formed away from the unit intake port that bulges out to a side opposite the impeller,

the bulged portion [[is]] being formed unevenly such that a bulging distance increases from a portion near the unit intake port to a portion away from the unit intake port toward the side opposite the impeller.

3. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A fan comprising: according to claim 1,

wherein

a centrifugal fan including an impeller and a scroll casing that houses the impeller, the scroll casing having a scroll intake port; and

a unit casing having an unit intake port that opens in a direction crossing an opening direction of the scroll intake port, the unit casing being configured to house the centrifugal fan,

the scroll casing having a bulged portion at a circumferential portion of the scroll intake port, the bulged portion having an inner surface that is formed evenly in a circumferential direction and an outer surface portion formed away from the unit intake port that bulges out to a side opposite the impeller,

the bulged portion [[is]] being formed by a plurality of ribs formed at the circumferential portion of the scroll intake port that protrude to the side opposite the impeller with the ribs having free ends defining an imaginary outer surface of the bulged portion on the side opposite the impeller.

4. (Previously Presented) An air conditioner comprising:
a centrifugal fan including an impeller and a scroll casing that houses the impeller, the scroll casing having a scroll intake port and a scroll discharge port;
a unit casing having an unit intake port that opens in a direction crossing an opening direction of the scroll intake port and a unit discharge port, the unit casing being configured to house the centrifugal fan;
a partition member dividing a space inside the unit casing into a fan chamber in communication with the unit intake port and a heat exchanger chamber in communication with the unit discharge port, the partition member including a communication hole formed to allow the fan chamber and the heat exchanger chamber to communicate with each other and to correspond to the scroll discharge port; and

a heat exchanger disposed inside the heat exchanger chamber such that air blown into the heat exchanger chamber from the scroll discharge port passes therethrough and then is blown out from the unit discharge port,

the scroll casing having a bulged portion at a circumferential portion of the scroll intake port, the bulged portion having an inner surface that is formed evenly in a circumferential direction and an outer surface portion formed away from the unit intake port that bulges out to a side opposite the impeller side.

5. (Previously Presented) The fan according to claim 2, wherein the bulged portion is formed by a plurality of ribs formed at the circumferential portion of the scroll intake port that protrude to the side opposite the impeller with the ribs having free ends defining an imaginary outer surface of the bulged portion on the side opposite the impeller.

6. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner according to claim 4, wherein

the bulged portion is formed unevenly such that a bulging distance increases from a portion near the unit intake port to a portion away from the unit intake port toward the side opposite the impeller.

7. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner according to claim 6, wherein

the bulged portion is formed by a plurality of ribs formed at the circumferential portion of the scroll intake port that protrude to the side opposite the impeller with the ribs having free ends defining an imaginary outer surface of the bulged portion on the side opposite the impeller.

8. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner according to claim 4,
wherein
the bulged portion is formed by a plurality of ribs formed at the circumferential
portion of the scroll intake port that protrude to the side opposite the impeller with the ribs
having free ends defining an imaginary outer surface of the bulged portion on the side
opposite the impeller.
9. (New) The fan according to claim 2, wherein
the inner surface at the bulged portion is formed evenly in a circumferential direction
without changing the volume of the scroll casing.
10. (New) The fan according to claim 3, wherein
the inner surface at the bulged portion is formed evenly in a circumferential direction
without changing the volume of the scroll casing.
11. (New) The fan according to claim 4, wherein
the inner surface at the bulged portion is formed evenly in a circumferential direction
without changing the volume of the scroll casing.